

The Sumpter Miner

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J. W. CONNELLA

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ALWAYS IN ADVANCE.

There is a bill now before the Arizona legislature to tax mines on their gross output; which seems to be the present legislative fad in mining states, notwithstanding the unconstitutionality of the measure.

In a hundred or so daily papers yesterday morning Thomas Lawson published an open letter to J. H. Beck, former assistant attorney general of the United States, and at present chief counsel of the Standard Oil company and its mouthpiece in the "Frenzied Finance" controversy now being waged, offering to give to a worthy charity \$5,000 if he will meet him in Faneuil hall and publicly discuss the subjects at issue. Lawson takes occasion to say that he never made a speech in his life, while Beck is a "professional orator," and incidentally roasts him to a turn.

The national and several state governments are preparing to take a fall out of the Standard Oil company, and though that giant has heretofore emerged victorious from every legislative and legal contest, there is now a chance for its defeat. It now faces the hardest battle of its dishonorable career. In the first place, recent exposures of its methods have aroused public sentiment against it, which will prove a strong support for the officials whose duty it will be to investigate and prosecute. Again, the Standard Oil has never before had to deal with so powerful an official and game a fighter as President Roosevelt. Nor has it had to deal with a state like Texas. Money is not worshipped there with the intense idolatry that it is in Pennsylvania, nor is personal and official honor held in such low esteem, which is a heavy handicap to Brother John D.

Piercing of the Simplon tunnel through the Alps was completed at 7:20 o'clock last Friday morning. The work was commenced in 1895. The meeting of the two boring parties, Swiss and Italians, was signaled throughout Switzerland by ringing of church bells and salutes by canon. Many unexpected obstacles were encountered, the most serious being hot springs, which threatened to wreck the whole enterprise, and a temperature, which at one time rose to 131 degrees Fahrenheit, making a continuance of the work impossible until the engineers found means of cooling the atmosphere. Now that the borers have met, it is practicable for the water accumulated in the north gallery to be drawn off. The work of preparing the tunnel for a permanent railway will be rushed as rapidly as possible.

The length of the tunnel from Berga in Switzerland, to Iselle, on the Italian side of the mountain, is about 12 miles. The work was begun over six year ago, and according to contract, the tunnel must be ready for traffic on May 15, next. The Swiss and Italian governments

jointly financed the undertaking, share and share alike, at the cost of \$15,000,000. As soon as the boring is thoroughly completed and the track laid, a smaller tunnel is to be constructed parallel to the large one, which will be increased in size so as to permit of traffic both ways at the same time.

It was, unless memory errs, Kipling who spoke of New England as the "pie belt." Other writers and scribblers, foreign and domestic, medical authorities and laymen, have "piped off" down easterners for their abnormal consumption of the dyspepsia-breeding pie. Those who are addicted to the dread pie eating habit will therefore rejoice to learn that the foundations of this basic American institution have been strengthened by a great discovery. As might be expected, this invention—for it is no less—emanates from Yankeeland, the native home of the pie. A Maine scientist, after years of costly experiment, has patented a "Papyrus Pie Plate," which is guaranteed to remove the chief objection to pie, the grease made necessary by baking in tin or other metal pans. The papyrus plate, so called, is made of spruce pulp, ground fine and then pressed. No grease whatever is necessary for baking and the pie comes from the oven fresh and sweet and wholesome, something that it cannot, unfortunately, be said of the old-fashioned pie, baked in a tin pan, which has been largely to blame for the sallow skin and impaired digestion of the pie-eaters.

The American commercial invasion of Abyssinia, recently inaugurated through the diplomatic skill of United States Consul General Robert P. Skinner, promises to open up new and important mining resources to the world. In one instance, an American promoter has already secured a concession and undoubtedly more will follow. In an article on the expedition, Mr. Skinner says: "There are gems and gold in Ethiopia. The gems we saw were found scattered over the desert wastes, washed down from the mountains above. Gold is hidden away in the mountains in quantities which can be estimated by no existing data. Even the annual production of gold, by methods as old as Moses, amounts to \$50,000. As for copper, iron and the ordinary metals, their extraction is merely a question of finding facilities for the shipment and, probably more important still, a market capable of absorbing them. Petroleum has been discovered in large quantities." This is the opinion of a layman, but these statements have been confirmed by the investigations of German scientists who have recently made an examination of the region for a syndicate and report has it that the famous King Solomon's mines were in this locality.

Friday fell Down on Payments.

The Friday Gold Mining company, limited, had made arrangements and contract with the Whitman Mining company, limited, to buy the Bishoprick mill, in the Pearl camp. It made two payments and fell down. The Whitman people gave them a further extension and they failed to make their first payment, so now the Whitman will fix up the mill this coming season and will run some of their own ore.—Boise Statesman.

Al Jones, diked out in his other clothes and a white shirt, left on the afternoon train for Baker City.

OFFICIAL RECORDS.

The following instruments were filed at the court house in Baker City for record yesterday:

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS.

DEEDS.

Frank Zerlant to Wm. Wegand, $\frac{1}{2}$ interest in E. $\frac{1}{2}$, S. W. $\frac{1}{4}$, N. W. $\frac{1}{4}$, S. W. $\frac{1}{4}$, S. 22, T. 11, R. 38; \$800.

J. W. Cleaver and wife to Geo. H. Salley, block 45 in J. W. Cleaver's cemetery, Baker county; \$25.

Jas. T. Wisdom and wife to Jas. H. Shinn, S. E. $\frac{1}{4}$, S. 23, and N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$, S. 26, T. 8, R. 39; \$1.

W. B. Ayer et al to Charles A. Daugherty, N. W. $\frac{1}{4}$, S. 4, T. 7, R. 39; \$560.

Eva Truesdall and husband to M. A. Weir, 52x177 feet in S. 29, T. 9, R. 40; \$400.

L. S. Kelsey to Geo. W. Neill, $\frac{1}{4}$ interest in Kelsey & Wilson ditch on south side of Powder river.

W. Wadde to Guy L. Lindsay, E. 50 feet, lot 10, block 5, Sumpter Height's addition to Sumpter; \$1.

Robert Garrison and wife to Sarah A. Bunyan, lot 10, block 26, McCarry's addition to Baker City; \$800.

Perlina Estes to Hardin W. Estes, lots 10 and 11 in block 3, Sturges & Crowell's addition to Baker City; \$1.

Bourne Land & Improvement company to Frank Ferguson, N. 15 feet, lot 16, block "A," Bourne; \$1.

Same to Frank Ferguson, lot 15, block "A," Bourne; \$172.

C. E. Coles and wife to Edward Orr, lots 13 and 14, block 3, Cole's addition to Rock Creek; \$110.

Bernard Flynn and wife to John Denbabin, E. 100 feet, lot 18, block 11, Sumpter Height's addition to Sumpter; \$900.

U. S. A. to Robert Ratcliff, lots 2 and 3, S. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ N. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ and N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ S. W. $\frac{1}{4}$, S. 7, T. 11, R. 42.

Zeno Denny to Ed. A. Burns, one-half interest in O'Connor's Hall, Pine; \$300.

Zeno Denny and wife to Ed. A. Burns, lot 2, Hunt's addition to Pine; \$150.

Zeno Denny and wife to Ed. A. Burns, 5100 square feet in N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ S. 21, T. 8, R. 46; \$100.

Annie E. Snapp and husband to F. A. Dawson, a fraction of an acre in N. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$, S. 17 T. 8, R. 46; \$15.

Emma E. Moore and husband to F. A. Dawson, land in S. $\frac{1}{2}$ of S. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ of S. 8 T. 8 R. 46; \$25.

J. D. Gibbs and wife to Sarah Blackwell part of lot 8, block 5, Sumpter Height's addition to Sumpter; \$350.

S. W. Holmes and wife to O. D. Tomlinson, part of the S. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of S. 23 T. 6 R. 39; \$1500.

State of Oregon to F. C. Coles S. W. $\frac{1}{4}$, N. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ and N. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ S. W. $\frac{1}{4}$, S. 28, T. 4, R. 39; \$100.

State of Oregon to Ed. W. Coles, N. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of S. 27, T. 7, R. 39; \$100.

Joseph Palmer and wife to Wm. A. Roundy, lots 7 and 8, block 53, Wilovale addition to Baker City; \$400.

Otto Fleenor to M. T. Fleenor, S. W. $\frac{1}{4}$, S. 27, T. 8, R. 40; \$1.

Lizzie S. Coles and husband to W. H. Shoemaker, to correct former deed in S. E. $\frac{1}{4}$, N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$, S. 34, T. 7, R. 38; \$5.

A. J. Toney and wife to W. H. Shoemaker, to correct former deed in S. E. $\frac{1}{4}$, N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$, S. 34, T. 7, R. 38; \$35.

Joseph Palmer and wife to J. Van Den Dreishs, lots 1, 2 and 3, block 34, Wilovale addition to Baker City; \$120.

Joseph Palmer and wife to Shofel De Roest, lots 8, 9 and 10, block 34, Wilovale addition to Baker City; \$120.

MINING MATTERS.

DEEDS.

Oscar Eeden et al to White Crystal Lime company, ltd., "Crystal," and "Star" placer claims; \$1.

S. D. Baldwin, et l, to Orville N. Haud, $\frac{2}{3}$ of "General Jackson," "Tennessee" and "Rosebud" claims; \$500.

U. S. A. to Eastern Oregon Mining company, "South Pole" and "Evans" mining claims.

U. S. A. to Eastern Oregon Mining company, "Majestic" quartz mining claim.

H. K. Brown, sheriff, to White Swan Mines comp., redemption certificate, White Swan No. 1 and 2, Ratliff, Black Bear and Red Ledge claims; \$31.41.

J. H. Dearmin to W. N. Thompson, one-fourth interest in Black Bear group of mines; \$500.

J. H. Dearmin to W. A. Vroom, same; \$500.

David J. Buckner to John Layden, "Silver King" quartz claim in Bourne district; \$1.

MINING NOTES.

A streak of high grade ore has been struck in the Wolverine, near Granite. The ledge is from 18 to 24 inches wide. Drifting is in progress.

Work on the placer property of G. W. Dart and Fred Yegenson near the Geo. Martin place on Canyon creek, in Grant county, commenced this week.

The Gem Mining company, of Susanville, composed of James H. Dunstan, R. J. Graham and Capt. E. Simpson, has been dissolved, Dunstan retiring.

The diamond drill that has been operated on Canyon creek and along the John Day river during the past year by the Empire dredger company, started again last Wednesday.

The Dixie mine and mill, at Quartzburg, owned by Zoeth Houser, is again running, after a short shut down caused by freezing weather. A double shift will be put on at an early date, says the owner.

The Gold Bug Mining company, whose property is on Rabbit creek, has paid off the time checks that were issued to the men last month when the property was shut down. Men will again be driving the cross-cut in a few weeks.

Today, according to a dispatch, Letson Balliet, the erstwhile "Napoleon of Finance," will be released from jail at Des Moines, Iowa, without serving the entire three months of his sentence for fraudulent use of the mails.—Democrat.

B. Rivalier proprietor and owner of the Prairie City electric light plant, reports that the deal transferring the light plant to Baker City people is still pending and is contingent on the satisfactory adjustment of details. It still looks good and will in all probability be consummated.

The Magnolia, at Granite, is waiting for spring before starting work on a larger scale. Four or five men have been employed at the Magnolia all winter, but with the coming of warm weather the water will start and the mill can be put in operation. This will mean the employment of 20 to 30 men. It is announced that Mr. Vinson will have the mine going full force soon after March 1.